

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4606

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0172

KUWAIT FOR BAGHDAD POUCH ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, SA, US

SUBJECT: TEXAS IOGA TRADE MISSION

REF: JIDDA 0825

WISH TO RECORD OUR AGREEMENT WITH POINTS RAISED IN REFTEL. SAUDI ARABIA HAS ONLY LIMITED AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE BINDING CONSTRAINTS ON ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. HENCE WE TOO BELIEVE THAT TEXAS TRADE MISSION, TARGETTED SOLELY ON SAUDI AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WILL MISS REAL POTENTIAL THAT THIS MARKET AFFORDS TEXAS EXPORTERS. TEXAS, UNLIKE MOST STATES, HAS PORTS WHICH HAVE DIRECT SAILINGS TO SAUDI ARABIAN PORTS. GIVEN THIS ADVANTAGE OF LOWER TRASPORT COSTS, IT IS ALL THE MORE SURPRISING THAT IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL STATE LIKE TEXAS IS NOT FIELDING TRADE MISSIONTHAT CAN TAP SAUDI MARKET FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT (PARTICULARLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION, PETROCHEMICAL AND HOUSING INDUSTRIES) AND FOR CONSUMER DURABLES.
BUSHNELL

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